

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OMB-01 DRC-01 L-03 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-15 /082 W

----- 043342

R 240731Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1716

INFO NAVALELEXSYSCOM FOR PME-119

CNO WASHDC

CINCPAC

CINCPACREP CANBERRA

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, AS, US

SUBJ: PROJECT OMEGA: ANOTHER QUESTION FROM JOINT COMMITTEE

REF: CANBERRA 5155

1. DURING QUESTIONING OF DFA REP ON SEPT 18, REPRESENTATIVE HAMER (LIBERAL, VICTORIA) ASKED ABOUT FUNDING OF LORAN SYSTEM IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC AND NORTH PACIFIC OCEANS. THE EXCHANGE ON THIS SUBJECT IS AS FOLLOWS:

REP HAMER: "DO YOU KNOW IT TO BE A FACT THAT THE U.S. BORE ALL THE COSTS OF THE LORAN STATIONS?"

DFA REP: ZNO, I AM NOT AWARE OF THE FACTS SURROUNDING THE FINANCING OF THOSE STATIONS."

REP HAMER: "INFORMATION ABOUT SUCH FUNDING IS OF COURSE RELEVANT TO THE COMMITTEE'S WORK. IT APPEARS THAT (IN PROPOSING OMEGA) THEY (THE U.S.) HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY GENEROUS."

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2. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY PERTINENT INFORMATION

WHICH MIGHT BE USED BY DFA IN RESPONDING TO THE ABOVE QUESTION. IN ITS RESPONSE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO STRESS ROLE OF U.S. COAST GUARD IN OPERATING LORAN SYSTEM. ALSO, MATTER OF U.S. GENEROSITY IN PROPOSED OMEGA AGREEMENT SHOULD BE PROVIDED IN CONTEXT OF COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF THIS MATTER. PRO-OMEGA REPRESENTATIVES OF WHOM HAMER IS ONE, ARE INTERESTED IN SHOWING USG'S GENEROSITY IN PROMOTING WORLDWIDE NAVIGATION SYSTEM. OMEGA OPPONENTS, HOWEVER, TEND TO VIEW U.S. OFFER TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT AND OTHERWISE FUND OMEGA PROJECT AS GROUNDS TO QUESTION "REALS REASONS" FOR USG'S INTERESTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE CHAIRMAN WHEELDON HAS SPOKEN OF U.S. GENEROSITY AS "TROJAN HORSE".

3. NEXT TWO SESSIONS OF JOINT COMMITTEE SHECDULED FOR SEPT 25 AND OCT 9 READ LIKE ROSTER OF AUSTRALIAN RADICAL ELEMENTS. IN ADDITION TO REPRESENTATIVES FROM PEACE COMMITTEES AND AUSTRALIA PARTY, THREE ACADEMICS FROM WELL-KNOWN LEFTIST ELEMENT AT MONASH UNIVERSITY AND LEFT-WING SOCIALISTS BILL HARTLEY ARE ALL SCHEDULED TO APPEAR. WE EXPECT NEWSPAPER COVERAGE TO BE HOT AND HEAVY. AFTER FOREGOING PRESENTATIONS, COMMITTEE EXPECTS TO RETURN TO SANITY WITH SUBMISSIONS BY DEPT OF CIVIL AVIATION AND ACADEMICS LIKE PROFESSOR HARRY GELBER FROM MELBOURNE WHO HAS SUBMITTED SENSIBLE AND LOGICAL PAPER IN SUPPORT OF PROJECT OMEGA.
GREEN

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30 JUN 2005

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